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Research Note ETL-RN-70-2

**A RELATION BETWEEN THE SPECTRUM OF
SURFACE SLOPES AND THE SPECTRUM OF
SURFACE ELEVATIONS AND ITS USEFULNESS
IN THE THEORY OF ELECTROMAGNETIC
WAVE SCATTERING FROM ROUGH SURFACES**

by
Richard A. Hevenor

July 1970

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**The Commanding Officer
U. S. Army Engineer Topographic Laboratories**

Prepared by

**Richard A. Hevenor
Geographic Information Systems Branch
Geographic Sciences Division**

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SUMMARY

The purpose of this research note is to show that a simple relation exists between the spectrum of surface elevations and the spectrum of surface slopes. This relation is useful when the problem of electromagnetic wave scattering from rough surfaces is being worked on. When the small perturbation theory is being used to compute the scattered fields from a rough surface, both the spectrum of surface elevations and the spectrum of the surface slopes can appear in the final equations. The spectrum of the surface elevations is easy to work with and can be determined from measurements made on the surface. The spectrum of the surface slopes, however, is more difficult to work with. It would be beneficial if a relation between the two spectrums could be obtained.

FOREWORD

The relationships derived in this research note were discovered by the author when he was working on the problem of electromagnetic wave scattering from rough surfaces. The final expression derived for the spectrum of the surface slopes is to be used in a rigorous analysis of wave scattering from composite rough surfaces. This work was done in the Geographic Information Systems Branch under the supervision of Mr. Abraham Anson and under the general supervision of Dr. Kenneth R. Kothe.

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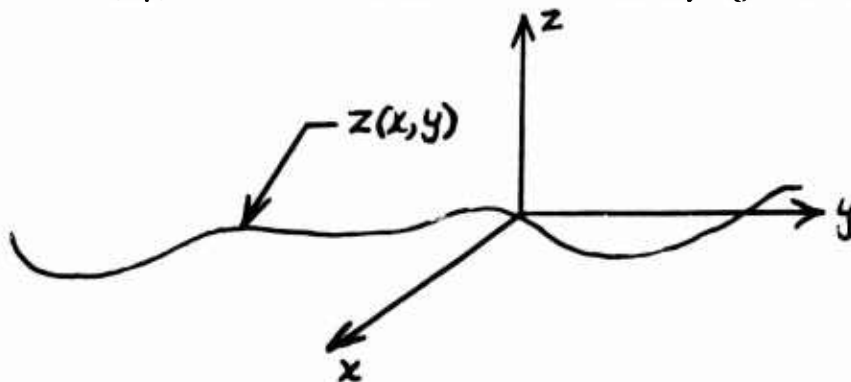
A RELATION BETWEEN THE SPECTRUM OF SURFACE SLOPES AND THE SPECTRUM OF SURFACE ELEVATIONS AND ITS USEFULNESS IN THE THEORY OF ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVE SCATTERING FROM ROUGH SURFACES

I. INTRODUCTION

The problem of the scattering of electromagnetic waves from rough surfaces has been the subject of many papers in recent years. A recent theory by Fung* has used the small perturbation technique along with the Fourier transformation to obtain expressions for the scattered fields from a slightly rough surface. In the final expression for the scattered fields for the vertical polarization case, one finds the spectrum of the surface elevations and the spectrum of the surface slopes. The spectrum of the surface elevations is easy to work with and can be determined from measurements made on the surface. The spectrum of the surface slopes, however, is more difficult to work with. It would be beneficial if a relation between the two spectrums could be developed. The purpose of this technical note is to show that a simple relation exists between the spectrum of the surface elevations and the spectrum of the surface slopes.

II. ANALYSIS

A surface is assumed to exist which has its elevations distributed in some random manner with respect to a single plane. A right-handed rectangular Cartesian coordinate system is set up with its origin near the surface and with the z axis representing the surface elevation dimension. The xy plane is the mean surface elevation plane. The surface elevations can be described by the function $z(x,y)$ as shown in the figure. The assumption is made that $z(x,y)$ is Fourier transformable over an arbitrary region of interest.



* A. K. Fung, "Mechanisms of Polarized and Depolarized Scattering from a Rough Dielectric Surface," *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, Vol. 285, No. 2 (February 1968).

The spectrum of the surface elevations $Z(k_x, k_y)$ can be obtained by taking the two dimensional Fourier transform of $z(x, y)$, where k_x and k_y are the two Fourier variables.

$$Z(k_x, k_y) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \iint z(x, y) \exp(-jk_x x - jk_y y) dy dx \quad (1)$$

The limits on all integrals in this note are from minus infinity to plus infinity. The surface elevations $z(x, y)$ can be obtained from the spectrum by an inverse Fourier transform relation:

$$z(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \iint Z(k_x, k_y) \exp(jk_x x + jk_y y) dk_x dk_y \quad (2)$$

When equation (2) is differentiated with respect to x , an expression is obtained which is representative of the surface slopes in the x direction.

$$\frac{\partial z(x, y)}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \iint jk_x Z(k_x, k_y) \exp(jk_x x + jk_y y) dk_x dk_y \quad (3)$$

The spectrum $Z_x(u, v)$ of the surface slopes can be written as:

$$Z_x(u, v) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \iint \frac{\partial z(x, y)}{\partial x} \exp(-jux - jvy) dy dx \quad (4)$$

The Fourier variables u and v have been used here to keep them separate from k_x and k_y . When equation (3) is substituted into equation (4) the spectrum of the surface slopes in x becomes:

$$Z_x(u, v) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \iiint jk_x Z(k_x, k_y) \exp[jx(k_x - u) + jy(k_y - v)] dk_x dk_y dy dx \quad (5)$$

Integrating equation (5) with respect to x and y , the Dirac delta function is obtained, which is defined as follows:

$$\delta(\tau) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int e^{j\phi\tau} d\phi$$

The spectrum of the surface slopes in x then becomes:

$$Z_x(u, v) = \iint jk_x Z(k_x, k_y) \delta(k_x - u) \delta(k_y - v) dk_x dk_y \quad (6)$$

Equation (6) can only be defined at the point $k_x = u$ and $k_y = v$. Then the spectrum of the surface slopes in x can be related to the spectrum of surface elevations as follows:

$$Z_x(u,v) = juZ(u,v) \quad (7)$$

If we represent the spectrum of the surface slopes in y by $Z_y(u,v)$ then it can be shown by a similar derivation that:

$$Z_y(u,v) = jvZ(u,v)$$

III. CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded that:

- a. A simple relation has been shown to exist between the spectrum of surface slopes and the spectrum of the surface elevations.
- b. This relation is useful in the analysis of electromagnetic wave scattering from rough surfaces when the small perturbation technique is being used.

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